

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 04500 281059Z

12

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /089 W

----- 106416

P 280620Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2290

US MISSION USUN PRIORITY 492

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 4500

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SOO, SP, MO

SUBJ: SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: UPSURGE OF
VIOLENCE IN SAHARA AND IN CEUTA

REF: MADRID 4470

B. RABAT 3067

C. MADRID 4082

SUMMARY: LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN SPANISH SAHARA HAS INCREASED
SHARPLY WITH DEATH OF FIVE SPANISH SOLDIERS JUNE 24 AND
ADDITIONAL ATTACKS ON SPANISH AIRCRAFT AND MILITARY
DEPLOYMENT. TWO BOMBINGS IN PRESIDIO OF CEUTA ON HEELS OF
EARLIER BOMBING ATTEMPT IN MELILLA TWO WEEKS AGO, ADD NEW
FACTION IN DETERIORATING SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS. GOS
HAS FORMALLY PROTESTED LATEST VIOLENCE IN SAHARA AND CAN
BE EXPECTED TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT ITS POSITION IN NORTH
AFRICAN PRESIDIOS. GOVERNOR GENERAL OF SAHARA HAS ANNOUNCED
THAT DEADLINE HAS PASSED FOR SETTING UP OF COMMITTEE FOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 04500 281059Z

TRANSMITTAL OF POWERS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES BUT F.

POLISARIO HAS REFUSED TO BE INCLUDED. F. POLISARIO, BELIEVING IT TO BE SOLE REP OF SAHARAN PEOPLE REPORTEDLY HAS SAID THAT IT WANTS TO SET UP A SOCIALIST AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ALONG ARAB LINES. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE HAS BEEN UPSURGE OF VIOLENCE IN SAHARA IN PAST WEEK. THESE INCIDENTS ARE: (A) MARCH 21 - ATTACK BY APPROX 25 MEN WITH UNIFORMS OF MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES ON OUTPOST OF TAH, NEAR COASTAL BORDER OF MOROCCO AND SPANISH SAHARA. ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS REPORT, TWO MOROCCAN SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. (B) MARCH 25- DEATH OF FIVE SPANISH SOLDIERS WHOSE JEEP RAN OVER A LAND NINE NEAR TAH (REF B). ACCORDING TO LET. GEN. GOMEZ DE SALAZAR, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF SAHARA, SPANISH ARMY WAS AWARE THAT MINEFIELDS HAD BEEN LAID NEAR THE OUTPOST OF TAH AND ARMY WAS LOCATING AND REMOVING THEM. HE SAID INCIDENT WAS "VERY SERIOUS". (C) JUNE 25- A SPANISH RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WAS FIRED UPON BY MOROCCAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS FROM MOROCCAN TERRITORY.

2. SPANISH PRESIDIO OF CEUTA ON MOROCCAN COAST WAS SCENE MAR 26 OF TWO EXPLOSIONS WHICH CAUSED ONE DEATH AND CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS HOUSING NAVAL MILITARY COMMAND AND PORT COMMANDER'S OFFICE BUILDING. A THIRD BOMB LOCATED NEAR THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S BUILDING DID NOT GO OFF. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, BORDER POINTS BETWEEN CEUTA AND MOROCCO HAS BEEN CLOSED AND APPROX 100 MOROCCANS HELD FOR INTERROGATION. ONE OF VEHICLES IN WHICH BOMB WAS PLACED REPORTEDLY HAD MOROCCAN LICENSE.

3. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY MFA 2/26 REPORTING MEETING BETWEEN UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROVIRA AND MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR THE SAME DAY IN WHICH LATTER WAS GIVEN "ENERGETIC PROTEST NOTE" FOR ACTS OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED RECENTLY BY MILITARY UNITS BASED IN MOROCCO AGAINST SPANISH MILITARY UNITS AND INSTALLATIONS IN WESTERN SAHARA" (REF A). ACCORDING TO MFA NOTE, GOS WARNED GOM OF "GRAVE CONSEQUENCES" WHICH MIGHT ENSUE FROM INCREASE IN VIOLENCE.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 04500 281059Z

4. IN PRESS INTERVIEW WITH "VANGUARDIA" JUNE 22, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF SAHARA SAID THAT MOROCCANS WERE DEFINITELY RESPONSIBLE FOR TAH ATTACK BUT THAT UP TO THAT POINT, MOROCCANS HAD ATTACKED MORE NATIVE TROOP INSTALLATIONS AND MANNED POSTS THAN SPANISH TROOPS. GEN. GOMEZ SAID HE FULLY EXPECTED MORE INCIDENTS WITH MOROCCO. IN MID-MAY MEETING IN SPANISH SAHARA WITH PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR

LT. GEN. RAHIM KHAN, GOMEZ SAID THAT TSPANISH TROOPS HAD GOOD MORALE AND COULD COPE WITH SITUATION BUT "THE SOONER WE LEAVE, THE BETTER." GEN. RAHIM TOLD DATT AND EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE BELIEVED SPANISH MILITARY DEPLOYMENT WAS EFFECTIVE.

5. GEN. GOMEZ REVEALED TO "VANGUARDIA" CORRESPONDENT THAT HE HAD RECENTLY SENT LETTER TO LEADERS OF F. POLISARIO STATING THAT SPAIN WAS PREPARED TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE BUT NEEDED THEIR PARTICIPATION, GUARANTEEING GOS NEUTRALITY IN TREATMENT OF LOCAL SAHARAN GROUPS. GEN. SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED RESPONSE AND WAS UNSURE WHETHER THIS WAS DUE TO THEIR FEAR OR BECAUSE THEY WERE "MANIPULATED BY FOREIGN INTERESTS". HE ADDED THAT F. POLISARIO HAD INFORMED HIM THAT CAPTURED SPANISH SOLDIERS WERE IN GOOD CONDITION.

6. IN SEPARATE STATEMENT TO PRESS REPS JUNE 23, GOMEZ SAID THAT DEADLINE HAD BEEN PASSED JUNE 22 FOR FORMATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF LOCAL SAHARAN ASSEMBLY FOR SETTING UP A COMMISSION TO RECEIVE THE "TRANSMITTAL OF POWERS". THIS COMMITTEE, HE SAID, SHOULD CONTAIN THE VARIOUS POLITICAL FORCES OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING F. POLISARIO, BUT IT SEEMED AS IF THE LATTER WAS NOT RESPONSIVE TO SPANISH INVITATION BECAUSE IT CONSIDERED ITSELF THE SOLE REP OF SAHARAN PEOPLE. PYRESA NEWS AGENCY (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) ON JUNE 24 INTERVIEWED F. POLISARIO REP WHO SAID THAT F. POLISARIO "SOUGHT A SOCIALIST AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, BUT OUR SOCIASM IS ARABIC AND BASED ON ISLAM, AND WHEREVER THERE IS ISLAM, THERE IS NO COMMUNISM."

7. COMMENT: UPSURGE OF VIOLENCE IN SAHARA AND NEW VIOLENCE IN PRESIDIO OF CEUTA (THERE WAS AN UNEXPLODED BOMB INCIDENT IN MELILLA TWO WEEKS AGO), REPRESENT SERIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MADRID 04500 281059Z

ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE INVOLVING SPANIARDS AND MOROCCANS OVER SAHARAN ISSUE AND ISSUE OF SPANISH PRESIDIOS. LOCAL MEDIA HAVE GIVEN FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO RECENT VIOLENCE, INCLUDING PICTURES OF WIDOWS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF SOLDIERS KILLED BY LAND MINE. UP TO THIS LATTER INCIDENT, IT HAD SEEMED AS IF SPANIARDS AND OTHERS WERE EXERTING CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT TO AVOID BLOODSHED IN INCIDENTS ALONG EXTENSIVE SPANISH SAHARAN BORDER. FORTY-FIVE MOROCCANS CAPTURED BY SPANIARDS IN EARLIER INCIDENT HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM AREA OF MOROCCAN BORDER TO VILLA CISNEROS IN SOUTHERN SAHARA, PRESUMABLY TO PREVENT ESCAPE OR ATTEMPTS TO RESCUE THEM (REF C). BLOODSHED IN SAHARA AND IN CEUTA, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY TO EXACERBATE NERVOUSNESS AND PUT EXTRA STRAIN ON ALL SIDES CONCERNED. PREMIER ARIAS PAID TRIBUTE TO ARMED

FORCES IN SPEECH JUNE 24 FOR RESISTING PRESSURES FROM
PROVOCATIONS IN CARRYING OUT THEIR MISSION IN SAHARA.
GEN. GOMEZ' REFERENCE TO PLANNED TRANSFER OF "POWERS" TO A LOCAL
BODY CONTAINING VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS IS AN INDICATION THAT
GOS IS GOING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
POSSIBLE POLITICAL ENTITY.
STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, FOREIGN RELATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, DEATHS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID04500
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750225-1069
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975066/aaaaafaw.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 4470
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: UPSURGE OF VIOLENCE IN SAHARA AND IN CEUTA
TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006